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Chronic Wasting Disease

**Deer hunters in
Ingham, Clinton,
or Shiawassee
counties
... READ THIS**



What is it?

- Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a central nervous system disease found in cervids: deer, elk, and moose.
- It attacks the brain of infected animals creating small lesions in the brain that result in death.
- It is always fatal.
- It is transmitted through direct animal to animal contact or by contact with saliva, urine, feces, blood, and carcass parts of an infected animal or infected soil.

Signs of CWD in Deer

- Loss of body condition or emaciation.
- Change in behavior such as loss of fear of humans.
- Loss of bodily control or movements.
- Excessive drooling and salivating.

What are the impacts?

- CWD can spread through the deer herd.
- All deer infected with CWD die from the disease.
- Established CWD could significantly reduce the number of deer in Michigan and/or significantly depress older age classes, especially mature older-aged bucks.
- A healthy deer herd is important for hunting traditions. Michigan has more than 650,000 deer hunters who have harvested an average of 430,000 deer annually during the past decade.
- Hunting generates more \$2.3 billion annually to Michigan's economy. A healthy deer herd is critical to the state's economy.
- Without appropriate management within the current CWD Management Zone, the disease may spread to other areas of the state.
- There is no treatment for CWD.

Continued...

IMPORTANT- NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU HUNT!

- Baiting and feeding is illegal in Ingham, Clinton and Shiawassee counties.
- A CWD Management Zone was created consisting of Clinton, Ingham, and Shiawassee counties. Surveillance of hunter-harvested deer will take place in the Management Zone.
- A 9-township Core CWD Area within this Management Zone was created around the first CWD positive deer. Deer registration at a DNR deer check station is mandatory for deer harvested in: Alameda, Bath, Delhi, Dewitt, Lansing, Meridian, Wheatfield, Williamstown, and Woodhull townships.
- If a deer is harvested in the Core CWD Area, the entire carcass must be submitted within 72 business hours to a DNR check station located within the nine townships. The head will be removed and taken for testing.
- Removal of deer or any part of a carcass from the Core CWD Area is prohibited unless you first submit the head to a deer check station in the Core Area. Once the head has been submitted for testing, you may take the carcass to a taxidermist, processor, or your home.
- If CWD is found in a submitted deer, the hunter will be notified by phone.
- If CWD is not found, test results will be posted online at mi.gov/dnrlab within one week of head or carcass submission.
- De-boned meat, antlers, antlers with skull cap (clean of all brain and muscle tissue), and hides are approved for transporting out of the Core CWD Area. The head must still be submitted.
- **DO NOT** discard leftover parts of deer on the landscape! CWD prions are concentrated in the brain and spinal cord and if left on the landscape, those prions can spread the disease to healthy deer. Dispose of leftover parts by garbage service or a landfill. Or, drop at DNR check station dumpsters.
- Road-kills found in the Core CWD area should be called into the DNR Wildlife Disease hotline at 517-614-9602. Leave a voicemail indicating location, and staff will pick up carcasses on the next open business day.

Precautions When Field Dressing

- Wear rubber gloves when field dressing your deer.
- Bone out the meat from your deer.
- Minimize the handling of brain and spinal tissues.
- Wash hands and instruments thoroughly after field dressing is completed.
- Avoid consuming brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen, tonsils, and lymph nodes of harvested animals.
- Request that your animal is processed individually, without meat from other animals being added to the meat from your animal.

We Need You!

CWD has the potential to do great damage to Michigan's deer population.

We need hunters like you to do what you do best...
HUNT!

By lowering the deer population in the Core CWD Area we lower the possibility of spreading the disease.

This also allows us to gather crucial information on harvested deer to better understand CWD and its presence.

We are calling on hunters for help in preserving Michigan's hunting tradition for generations to come.

DNR Deer Check and Carcass Dump Stations

Rose Lake Field Office
8903 E. Stoll Rd.
East Lansing, MI 48823

DNR Lansing CSC
4166 Legacy Parkway
Lansing, MI 48842

Williamstown Township Hall
4990 Zimmer Rd.
Williamston, MI 48895

Hours can be found at
www.mi.gov/cwd

If you see a deer that shows CWD symptoms:

1. Accurately document the location of the animal.
2. Call the Report All Poaching Hotline at 1-800-292-7800.
3. Do not attempt to contact, disturb, kill, or remove the animal.

To learn more visit mi.gov/cwd